

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2020
2:00 PM-3:30 PM
Remote via Zoom

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Members present: Helen Charlupski (Chair), Mariah Nobrega, and Barbara Scotto.

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Members absent: Andreas Liu.

Other School Committee Members present: Jennifer Monopoli.

School Staff present: Mary Ellen Normen, Matt Gillis, and Robin Coyne.

Others present: Coordinator of Student Affairs Meaghan Geaney, Kindergarten Teacher and Brookline Educators Union (BEU) Health and Safety Chair Michelle Gorden, and Remote Task Force Member David Gacioch.

1) Discussion of Facility Issues for Opening of Schools

Coordinator of Student Affairs Meaghan Geaney provided a report on families' learning model choices as of today. Thus far, 735 students selected the Remote Learning Academy (RLA). This represents 30-50 students per grade. It is possible that the RLA numbers will grow, as a number of families asked if it will be possible to switch to the RLA during the school year. A significant number of families are choosing to withdraw their children from the Public Schools of Brookline (more than 120 students) and some have rescinded their enrollment registrations (more than 20). Some of the families have moved out of the district and some are switching to private school. The number of homeschooling requests is higher than typical years. Thus far, 4,283 students selected the Hybrid Option. The district is still waiting to hear from 2,100 students regarding their choice. The deadline for completing the Reopening Form has been extended to August 26, 2020. Selections will impact planning and staffing decisions. Subcommittee members asked for additional information on the plan to contact families who do not select an option by the deadline.

Ms. Geaney provided an update on Kindergarten registrations (350 in-person; 57 remote; and 60 haven't yet made a choice). Last year at this time, there were more than 600 Kindergarten registrations. Some families are choosing alternatives for the upcoming year, but plan to have their children return to the Public Schools of Brookline in the 2021-2022 School Year. Subcommittee members suggested further consideration of how reduced Kindergarten registrations might impact available school space. At the next Subcommittee meeting, Ms. Geaney will provide a summary of registrations/options selected, with a breakdown by grade.

Mr. Gillis provided an update on measurement of air flow in classrooms. Once he has completely verified the in-house testing process, he will be able to start working with volunteers to test all school spaces. All of the Kindergarten classrooms have been tested. Many of the 1st Grade classrooms have been tested, and 2nd Grade classrooms will be next. He will provide frequent updates to the Subcommittee/School Committee.

Mr. Gillis provided an update on procurement of MERV 13 filters and HEPA air filters (100 received and an additional 800 ordered). School window assessments are being verified. At this

time, approximately 90 percent of the windows are operable. A great deal of air flow work is being done at the Pierce School (is more complex due to the school's unique configuration).

Mr. Gillis is working with School/Town staff on questions related to the possible use and location of tents. Forty tents have been ordered. The cost to rent the tents is \$270,000 (plus the cost for 20 weighted barrels). The price to purchase 40 tents is approximately \$330,000, which is 22 percent more than the rental. The district does not have to make an immediate decision on whether to purchase the tents instead of renting them. The rental price includes the cost to put up and take down the tents. If the district purchases the tents, it will cost \$2,800 per tent to take it down, wash it, and store it.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.